

REMARKS

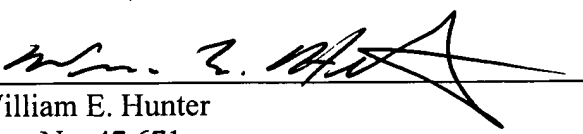
Claims 1-33 were pending. Claims 1-13 are computer-program product claims and are allowed. Claims 14-33 are non-elected claims that are canceled. The applicant added new claims 34-46, which are method claims.

The applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments should be entered. M.P.E.P Section 714.16 states that an amendment after allowance may be entered if (A) they are needed for proper protection of the invention and (B) entry would require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. In the instant case, the applicant respectfully submits that the new method claims are needed to provide protection commensurate with the disclosure, which describes both computer-program products and methods for blending. Moreover, the Office would not need to invest a substantial amount of work to enter the amendment because the new claims recite limitations that are at least similar to limitations of claims already allowed. Thus, the new claims would not require a new search or examination and are patentable for at least the same reasons considered for the allowed claims. The new claims were not presented prior to receipt of the notice of allowance because the notice was the first substantive action issued by the Office. Thus, the applicant respectfully submits that the new claims should be entered and allowed.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 28, 2006

  
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